

House Study Bill 158 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON COMMERCE BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON SODERBERG)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the installation and operation of an
2 automatic metering and termination of service system by
3 electric utilities.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 476.20, Code 2011, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 6. An electric utility may install
4 and operate, upon a customer's request and pursuant to an
5 appropriate tariff for any type of classification of service,
6 a prepaid metering system and equipment that is configured
7 to terminate electric service immediately and automatically
8 when the customer has incurred charges for electric service
9 equal to the customer's prepayments for such service. The
10 automatic termination of electric service once the customer's
11 prepaid limit has been reached shall be considered a voluntary
12 termination of service by the customer and shall not be
13 considered a disconnection by the utility for purposes of
14 this chapter and applicable rules adopted by the board. The
15 utility shall be required to educate a customer in advance of
16 installation concerning the use of the prepaid meter and the
17 potential for disconnection.

18 EXPLANATION

19 This bill permits an electric utility to install and
20 operate, upon a customer's request and pursuant to an
21 appropriate tariff for any type of classification of service,
22 a prepaid metering system and equipment that is configured
23 to terminate electric service immediately and automatically
24 when the customer has incurred charges for electric service
25 equal to the customer's prepayments for such service. The
26 bill provides that automatic termination of electric service
27 once the customer's prepaid limit has been reached shall be
28 considered a voluntary termination of service by the customer
29 rather than a disconnection by the utility. The bill directs a
30 utility installing a prepaid metering system and equipment to
31 educate a customer in advance of installation concerning the
32 use of the prepaid meter and the potential for disconnection.